

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for the treatment of a tumor which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of active dendritic cells (DC) that are tumor-specific and secrete IL12, said active DC being prepared by a process comprising:

- (a) collecting DC or DC precursor cells from a suitable source to obtain a DC culture;
- (b) loading the DC of said DC culture with a tumor specific antigen; and
- (c) exposing said DC culture to a concentration of LPS and a concentration of IFN- γ effective to trigger the DC of said DC culture to secrete IL12 to thereby obtain said tumor specific and IL12 secreting DC

~~, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment and effective amount of active dendritic cells (DCs) releasing interleukin-12 (IL-12) which are loaded with an antigen against a specific tumor and, due to the treatment with lipopolysaccharide (LPS) and interferon-gamma (IFN- γ), release IL-12.~~

2. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein said treatment is performed after bone marrow transplantation.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~specific~~ tumor is an advanced malignancy.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 1, wherein said DCs ~~are DCs having been taken~~ are collected from the patient having said ~~specific~~ tumor or from ~~the a~~ bone marrow donor.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the DCs have been loaded with an antigen from a tumor cell from said patient having said ~~specific~~ tumor.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 5, wherein the DCs are additionally charged with a tracer antigen.
7. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 6, wherein said tracer antigen is keyhole limpet hemocyanine (KLH).
8. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 7, wherein the DCs are additionally charged with an adjuvant, especially with tetanus toxoid.
9. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the DCs have been generated in vitro from peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs).
10. **(Withdrawn)** A composition for triggering IL-12 release from DCs which comprises LPS, IFN- γ and a tumor antigen.
11. **(Withdrawn)** The composition according to claim 10, wherein the composition is calf-serum free.
12. **(Withdrawn)** A method for triggering IL-12 release from dendritic cells (DCs) which comprises administering to a patient an effective amount of a combination of LPS, IFN- γ and a tumor antigen.
13. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 12, wherein the DCs have been loaded with an antigen from a tumor cell from a patient having said tumor.
14. **(Withdrawn)** Kit for triggering IL-12 release from DCs comprising
 - LPS,
 - IFN- γ and
 - a tumor antigen.

15. **(Withdrawn)** A method for for triggering IL-12 release from dendritic cells (DCs) which comprises exposing DCs to the kit of claim 14.
16. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 15, wherein the DCs have been loaded with an antigen from a tumor cell from a patient having a tumor.
17. **(New)** A method for the treatment of a tumor which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of active dendritic cells (DC), wherein said active DC are tumor-specific and secrete IL12.
18. **(New)** The method of claim 17, wherein said active DC are prepared by a process comprising:
- (a) collecting DC or DC precursor cells from a suitable source to obtain a DC culture;
 - (b) loading the DC of said DC culture with a tumor specific antigen; and
 - (c) exposing said DC culture to a concentration of LPS and a concentration of IFN- γ effective to trigger the DC of said DC culture to secrete IL12 and thereby obtain said active DC.